



DRONFIELD

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Dronfield,

FOR

—❧— 1899 —❧—

BY

H. MEREDITH RICHARDS, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DRONFIELD :

RYDER, PRINTER, PRINCESS BUILDINGS.

1899.





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JANUARY 25TH, 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting you with my second annual Report, I have to congratulate you on again having a satisfactory death rate. I would ask your special attention to the provision of new bye-laws, and to the completion of the Sewerage of the district.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. MEREDITH RICHARDS.

*To the Chairman and Members,
Dronfield Urban District Council.*

1899.

Summary of Report.

DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Area : 1046 acres.

Population (census) 1891, 3,438 ; Estimated 1899, 4,200.

Number of Occupied Houses : 1891, 733 ; 1899, 896.

Rateable Value 1899, £10,140.

General District Rate : 3/9.

Poor Rate : 3/9 on Buildings, 1/10½ on Land.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate per 1,000, 26·4.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000, 15·2.

Corrected Death Rate per 1,000, 16.

Infantile Mortality (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births), 162

Death Rate per 1,000 from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, 1·2.

(Corrected for Institutions only).

Isolation Hospital : Provision being made.

Water Supply :—

Source of Public Supply : Moorland Water from the Chesterfield Rural Water Mains.

Any change in 1899 ? No.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal : By individual Owners of Property.

Nuisances abated during 1899, 129.

Report.

The Population at the 1891 Census was 3,438 as compared with 4,331 in 1881. It is, however, known that this decrease has been followed by an increase in the number of inhabitants. We are therefore unable to adopt the Registrar General's method of estimating the present population. A fairly close approximation to the truth may be arrived at from a comparison of the number of inhabited houses. In 1891 there were 733 houses with 3,438 inhabitants. In 1899 there were 896 occupied houses. Allowing the same number of persons per house we have a population of 4,200 for 1899.

The density is four persons per acre.

The **Births** registered during 1899 numbered 111 or 26·4 per 1,000.

The **Deaths** registered during 1899 numbered 64. This is equal to a crude death rate of 15·2 per 1,000. There were in addition three deaths of Dronfield people at the Chesterfield workhouse. The true death-rate was therefore equal to 16 per 1,000, compared with for England and Wales.

The **Infantile Death Rate** (deaths under one year) was equivalent to 162 per 1,000 births.

Zymotic Disease : Throughout the year the following cases of infectious disease have been notified :—

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total, 1899.	1898.
Scarlet Fever 	2	1	1	...	3	1	...	1	...	1	2	3	Cases. Deaths. 15 ... 1 15 ... 1	Cases. Deaths. 15 ... 1
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	5 ... 2	4 ... 0
Puerperal Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	... ... ...	1 ... 1
Erysipelas ... ...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	1	7 ... 0	1 ... 0
Total, 1899 ...	2	1	2	1	4	2	...	4	...	2	4	5	27 ... 3	21 ... 2

The so-called Zymotic Death-rate (*i.e.*, the death-rate from Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, Diphtheria, and "Fever,") amounted to 1·2 per 1000. In calculating this rate the deaths (2) ascribed to "Gastro Enteritis" are not included under Diarrhœa.

Scarlet Fever exhibited the same slight prevalence as in 1898.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Five cases were notified, two of which proved fatal. At one time I feared that the disease would become epidemic, owing to the culpable carelessness of the parents of one of those infected in allowing large numbers of school children to visit the house. As it was, there was some spread of suspicious sore throats, but exclusion of the suspects from school had the desired effect of checking the further dissemination of infection.

Infantile Mortality.—Out of every 1,000 births, 162 infants died during the first year of life. These deaths are ascribed to

Respiratory Diseases...	...	...	...	7
Debility...	...	...	...	3
Prematurity ...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœal Diseases ...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes ...	...	...	...	3

You are to be congratulated on your immunity from Diarrhœal Diseases. I would again ask you to have the suggested leaflet on Infant Feeding circulated in the district.

Isolation Hospital.—It is to be regretted that owing to the delay in raising a loan, very little progress has been made by the North Derbyshire Hospital Committee.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.—There are 916 houses of all kinds in the district. Of these 161 are outside the sewered area. Of the remainder 368 are already connected to the new sewer, and 387 remain to be connected. From observations made at the end of October, it would appear that the

dry weather flow of sewage at present reaching the Outfall Works amounts to a little over 18,000 gallons or about 50 gallons per house. The effluent appears to be satisfactory but it is too soon to judge the efficiency of the filters, as they are not yet dealing with half the total sewage.

Water.—I regret that the public supply has been intermittent during the year. With Ball Valves to the Hydrants this is a serious menace to Dronfield and the surrounding district, as filth tends to find its way into the empty valve boxes and so into the mains. The defective supply is also a serious obstacle to the extension of the water carriage system, which needs to be enforced in all new property, and in all old property where the conveniences have become insanitary.

Bye-Laws.—I would suggest that you adopt Model Bye-laws as to the keeping of animals near dwellings. On several occasions I have noted pig-styes in undue proximity to houses.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—You do not appear to have made regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order. The Model Bye-laws recently issued by the Local Government Board, though rather vague in the matter of air space for such cowsheds as exist in your district, are perhaps sufficiently strong to begin with.

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1899, in the DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Sta- tistics; Public Insti- tutions being shown as separate Localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																									
	(b) At all Ages.	(c) Under One Year	(d) under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.		1	2	3	4	5	6	FEVERS.					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
															Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.														Cholera.	Erysipelas.
DRONFIELD	64	18	1	3	4	24	14	..	1	2	1	2	1	..	7	5	4	..	1	2	9	19	45

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

In the Inspector of Nuisances Department from Jan. 1st, 1899,
to Dec. 31st, 1899.

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES.	Number on Register.	Number Inspected.	Informal Notices served by Inspector	Number of Infected Houses.	Number Disinfected.	Houses to Disinfect.	Precautions taken by Inspector against Infectious Disease, the sale of Adulterated Food and Drugs and Unsound Meat, and under the Canal Boats' Act.
Insanitary Privies and Ashpits			91				Capital work has been done in making the connections of private drains with the new main sewer. The defective drains have been relaid, properly trapped, and inspection chambers constructed to meet modern requirements. 21 Privies have been converted into W.C's., but as the water supply is intermittent this matter is not unduly pressed. I have had a cow removed and slaughtered from a milking herd.
Insufficient Closet Accommodation..			1				
Conversion of Privies into W.C's. ...			21				
Eaves Spouts and Down Spouts.....			7				
Urinals Defective			3				
Offensive Accumulations			3				
Animals improperly kept			1				
Pigsties			2				
Dwelling Houses (Daily Inspection)				19	16	4	
Slaughter Houses	4	48					
Common Lodging Houses.....	1	37					
Workshops	6	36					
TOTALS.....	11	121	129	19	16	4	

JOHN WHITE, *Inspector.*